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3 **CLAIMS**

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6 I (We) claim:

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12 1. A dynamic spinal plate for stabilizing adjacent vertebrae comprising an elongated shaft with a proximal surface and a distal surface, said elongated shaft having a first bar near one end adapted for connection with a vertebra, said shaft having an opposite end, at least a second bar movably attached near said opposite end, said first and second bars each having a screw hole adapted to seat a screw head, a clip attached to said second bar, said clip having a retainer spanning said screw hole.

13 2. A dynamic spinal plate of claim 1 wherein said first bar is fixed to said shaft, said first bar extending transverse to said elongated shaft, screw holes in said first bar on each side of said elongated shaft, a clip attached to said first bar, said clip having a retainer spanning each of said screw holes.

14 3. A dynamic spinal plate of claim 2 wherein said second bar extends transverse to said elongated shaft, screw holes in said second bar on each side of said elongated shaft, said clip attached to said second bar having a retainer spanning each of said screw holes.

1 4. A dynamic spinal plate of claim 1 wherein said elongated shaft has a longitudinal groove
2 along each side, said second bar including a central depression with shoulders on each side, each
3 of said shoulders engaging said longitudinal groove along each side of said shaft for slidable
4 movement of said second bar along said shaft with said central depression in close contact with
5 said elongated shaft.

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7 5. A dynamic spinal plate of claim 2 wherein said elongated shaft has a longitudinal groove
8 along each side, said second bar including a central depression with shoulders on each side, each
9 of said shoulders engaging said longitudinal groove along each side of said shaft for slidable
10 movement of said second bar along said shaft with said central depression in close contact with
11 said elongated shaft.

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13 6. A dynamic spinal plate of claim 3 wherein said elongated shaft has a longitudinal groove
14 along each side, said second bar including a central depression with shoulders on each side, each
15 of said shoulders engaging said longitudinal groove along each side of said shaft for slidable
16 movement of said second bar along said shaft with said central depression in close contact with
17 said elongated shaft.

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19 7. A dynamic spinal plate of claim 3 wherein a third bar is slidably attached near said opposite
20 end of said elongated shaft, said third bar extends transverse to said elongated shaft, screw holes
21 in said third bar on each side of said elongated shaft, a clip fixed to said third bar having a

1 retainer spanning each of said screw holes.

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3 8. A dynamic spinal plate of claim 7 wherein said elongated shaft has a longitudinal groove
4 along each side, said second bar and said third bar each including a central depression with
5 shoulders on each side, each of said shoulders engaging said longitudinal groove along each side
6 of said shaft for slidable movement of said third bar along said shaft with said central depression
7 in close contact with said elongated shaft.

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9 9. A dynamic spinal plate of claim 1 wherein said shaft has transverse teeth formed in said distal
10 surface along the length thereof, said clip having a pawl portion seated between adjacent teeth.

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12 10. A dynamic spinal plate of claim 2 wherein said shaft has transverse teeth formed in said
13 distal surface along the length thereof, said clip attached to said second bar having a pawl portion
14 seated between adjacent teeth.

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16 11. A dynamic spinal plate of claim 3 wherein said shaft has transverse teeth formed in said
17 distal surface along the length thereof, said clip attached to said second bar having a pawl portion
18 seated between adjacent teeth.

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20 12. A dynamic spinal plate of claim 4 wherein said shaft has transverse teeth formed in said

1 distal surface along the length thereof, said clip attached to said second bar having a pawl portion
2 seated between adjacent teeth.

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4 13. A dynamic spinal plate of claim 7 wherein said shaft has transverse teeth formed in said
5 distal surface along the length thereof, each said clip attached to said second and said third bar
6 having a pawl portion seated between adjacent teeth.

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8 14. A dynamic spinal plate of claim 9 wherein said transverse teeth are angled toward said
9 opposite end whereby said shaft may advance through said second bar shortening the distance
10 between said first bar and said second bar, said pawl portion and said transverse teeth preventing
11 lengthening said distance.

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13 15. A dynamic spinal plate of claim 14 wherein said first bar is fixed to said shaft, said first bar
14 extending transverse to said elongated shaft, screw holes in said first bar on each side of said
15 elongated shaft, a clip attached to said first bar, said clip having a retainer spanning each of said
16 screw holes, said second bar extends transverse to said elongated shaft, screw holes in said
17 second bar on each side of said elongated shaft, a clip attached to said second bar having a
18 retainer spanning each of said screw holes, said elongated shaft having a longitudinal groove
19 along each side, said second bar including a central depression with shoulders on each side, each
20 of said shoulders engaging said longitudinal groove along each side of said shaft for slidable
21 movement of said second bar along said shaft with said central depression in close contact with

1 said elongated shaft.

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3 16. A dynamic spinal plate of claim 15 wherein a third bar is slidably attached near said opposite
4 end of said elongated shaft, said third bar extends transverse to said elongated shaft, screw holes
5 in said third bar on each side of said elongated shaft, a clip fixed to said third bar having a
6 retainer spanning each of said screw holes, said clip fixed to said third bar including a pawl
7 portion, whereby said shaft may advance through said third bar shortening the distance between
8 said first bar, said second bar, and said third bar, said pawl portion of said clip fixed to said third
9 bar and said transverse teeth preventing lengthening said distance.

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11 17. A dynamic spinal plate for stabilizing adjacent vertebrae comprising an elongated shaft with
12 a proximal surface and a distal surface, said shaft having one bar fixed at one end adapted for
13 connection with a vertebra, said bar extending laterally normal to said elongated shaft, screw
14 holes in said one bar on each side of said elongated shaft, said shaft having an opposite free end,
15 said shaft having a set of transverse teeth formed on said distal surface, at least a second bar
16 movably attached near said free end of said plate, said second bar adapted for connection with an
17 adjacent vertebra, said second bar extending laterally normal to said elongated shaft, screw holes
18 in said second bar on each side of said elongated shaft, said second bar including an attached
19 clip, said clip having a flange engaging said teeth and securing said second bar along the length
20 of said plate thereby maintaining the space between said one bar and said second bar.

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1 18. A dynamic spinal plate of claim 17 wherein said elongated shaft has a longitudinal groove
2 along each side, said second bar including a central depression with shoulders on each side, each
3 of said shoulders engaging said longitudinal groove along each side of said shaft for slidable
4 movement of said second bar along said shaft with said central depression in close contact with
5 said elongated shaft.

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7 19. A dynamic spinal plate of claim 18 wherein said transverse teeth are angled toward said
8 opposite end whereby said shaft may advance through said second bar shortening the distance
9 between said first bar and said second bar, said pawl portion and said transverse teeth preventing
10 lengthening said distance.

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12 20. A dynamic spinal plate of claim 19 including a third bar movably attached near said free end,
13 said third bar having a central depression with shoulders on each side, each of said shoulders
14 engaging said longitudinal groove along each side of said shaft for slidable movement of said
15 third bar along said shaft with said central depression in close contact with said elongated shaft,
16 said third bar including an attached clip, said clip having a flange engaging said teeth and
17 securing said third bar along the length of said plate thereby maintaining the space between said
18 one bar and said second bar.

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